AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

    a first component;

    a bus coupled with the first component, the bus to transmit packets of data, wherein the packets of data having special cycles embodying control information; and

    a second component coupled with the bus, the second component to receive the packets of data from the first component via the bus.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control information to control the performance of the first component and the second component.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, the second component transmit the packets of data to a third component, the third component coupled with the second component.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the third component to perform according to the control information.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the third component to transmit the packets of data to a fourth component, the fourth component coupled with the third component.

6.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second component perform according to the control information.

7.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein performing comprises asserting a signal.

8.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein performing comprises changing behavior of the second component.

9.   (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving a signal at a first component;

passing packets of data having a first message from the first component via a bus coupled with the first component, the packets of data having special cycles embodying control information relevant to the signal; and

receiving the first message at a second component via the bus.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the packets of data comprise a second message

11.   (Cancelled)

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising passing the first message from the second component to the third component.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising the second component performing according to the control information relating to the first message.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein performing

comprises at least one of the following: asserting a signal and changing behavior.

15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving a first signal in a first hub of a hub interface;

passing a message in response to the first signal from the first hub via the hub interface, the message having control information; and

receiving the message through from the first hub interface in at a second hub.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising: acting on the message, the acting performed by the second hub responsive to the receiving the message. comprising controlling performance of the first hub and the second hub according to the control information.

18.   (Cancelled)

19.   (Cancelled)

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

determining if the message is intended for the second hub;

performing according to the message if the message is intended for the second hub; and

transmitting the message to a third hub if the message is not intended for the second hub.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising receiving the message at the third hub through the hub interface.

22.   (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a first hub coupled with a first hub interface to receive a first signal;

the first hub to transmit a message via the first hub interface, the message having control information corresponding to the first signal; and

a second hub to receive the message from the first hub via he first hub interface the second hub coupled with the first hub interface.

23.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, further comprising: means for acting on the message, the means for acting associated with the second hub and operating responsive to the means for receiving the message. wherein the control information to control performance of the first hub and the second hub.

24.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, further comprising

a third hub to receive the message from the second hub via a second hub interface coupled with the second hub and the third hub, the message having the control information to control the second hub and the third hub.

25.   (Previously Presented) A chipset, comprising:

a memory control hub coupled with a processor and with a memory;

a bus coupled with the memory control hub, the bus to transmit packets of data; and

an input-output hub coupled with the bus and with an input-output device, the

chipset to pass messages between the memory control hub and the input-output

hub by transmitting the packets of data on the bus via a hub interface, the

messages including control information regarding signals received from and to

control at least one of the following: the processor, the memory, and the input-

output device.

26.   (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a processor;

a processor bus coupled with the processor;

a memory;

a memory control hub coupled with the processor bus and with the memory;

a bus coupled with the memory control hub, the bus transmit packets of data;

an input-output device; and

an input-output hub coupled with the bus and with the input-output device, the

input-output hub to pass messages to the memory control hub by transmitting the

packets of data on the bus via a hub interface, the messages having control

information regarding signals received from and to control one or more of the

following: the processor, the memory, and the input-output device.

27.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the hub interface

comprises a packet-based split-transaction protocol.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein transmitting the packets of data comprises transmitting the packets of data using a packet-based split transaction protocol.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of clam 28, wherein transmitting the packets of data comprises transmitting a request packet to start a transaction and transmitting a completion packet to terminate the transaction.

30. (Previously Presented) The chipset of claim 25, wherein the hub interface comprises a packet-based split-transaction protocol.

31. (Previously Presented) The chipset of claim 25, wherein transmitting the packets of data comprises transmitting the packets of data using the packet-based split transaction protocol.

32. (Previously Presented) The chipset of clam 31, wherein transmitting the packets of data comprises transmitting a request packet to start a transaction and transmitting a completion packet to terminate the transaction.